

County Circuit Court Judge for the past 8 years, for his continued service to the people of Wisconsin.

Paul Higginbotham is a 29-year resident of Dane County and a former small business owner. Throughout his life he has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to public service.

As a Circuit Court Judge, he presided over some of the most significant cases in recent history, including the case challenging the Milwaukee private school voucher program, which ultimately reached the U.S. Supreme Court.

In addition to his work on the Circuit Court, Paul was the city of Madison's first Municipal Judge. He was also a successful attorney who worked for a diverse group of law firms, focusing particularly on the areas of civil rights, family law, criminal defense, and housing. Between 1993 and 1994 he served as the Acting Executive Director of the Madison Equal Opportunities Commission. From 1988 to 1992, Paul was the Dane County Minority Affairs Coordinator in the County Executive's Office, where his advocacy ensured our government would reflect the rich diversity of the community. He has also served as a lecturer at the University of Wisconsin Law School and as a staff attorney for the Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council.

Judge Higginbotham has also been an active community member in the greater Madison area, benefiting numerous community service organizations. He currently serves on the United Way Foundation Board of Trustees and is involved with both the Collaborative Management Team and the Comprehensive Approaches to Sex Offender Management Program. In the past, he has served as a Vice-President of the Madison Mutual Housing Association Board of Directors, a trustee of the Greater Madison Housing Foundation, as well as an Executive Committee Member of the NAACP. He was also a Commissioner of the Dane County Housing Authority, President of WORT Radio, co-chair of the Grant Allocations Board of the Wisconsin Community Fund, and Private Sector Review Committee Member of Madison Area Technical College.

Wisconsin is fortunate to have a public servant with the commitment, passion, and integrity of Paul Higginbotham. As the Wisconsin Community Fund honors Paul Higginbotham, I am proud to join them in thanking him for his dedication and service to the community.

THE ARC OF LUZERNE COUNTY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the service to the community of the Arc of Luzerne County, PA, which was founded in 1952 as the Wyoming Valley Council for the Mentally Retarded. The Arc will hold its 50th anniversary celebration on January 15, 2003.

Like many nonprofit organizations, the Arc of Luzerne County started as a small group of parents trying to make a better life for their

children. Today, the Arc has become an influential advocacy organization serving all people with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities and their families. The local organization also benefits from its affiliation with the state and national Arc.

Among the many accomplishments of the Arc of Luzerne County is the Community Resource Center, which opened in July 2000 to serve people in six northeastern Pennsylvania counties. Since opening, the center has provided a creative arts program and other community integration activities, as well as up-to-date information and a place for the people it serves to meet with each other and with caregivers and service providers.

The Arc of Luzerne County also has a long history of working to improve the support services offered to children and adults with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities. In addition, the organization provides representative payee services and independent monitoring teams that assess the quality of residential facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the half-century of service to the community of the Arc of Luzerne County, and I commend its members for their hard work and dedication.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO: MANCOS FIRE PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the Mancos Fire District for their service and dedication during one of Colorado's most formidable fire seasons. Last summer, the Mancos Fire Department played an integral role in containing the Missionary Ridge forest fire that burned over 70,000 acres in Southwestern Colorado. Today, I would like to pay tribute to their heroic efforts before this body of Congress and this nation.

When the Missionary Ridge fire first erupted last June, the citizens of Durango, Bayfield, and the surrounding communities called upon the Mancos Fire District to protect their loved ones, homes, and communities from what would become the worst fire in area history. The fire began in a ditch beside Missionary Ridge Road just 15 miles northeast of Durango and grew to consume more than 70,000 acres, 56 residences, and 27 outbuildings.

Although the Missionary Ridge fire was a devastating reminder of how destructive forest fires can be, it also served to remind us of the men and women who risk their lives to protect their fellow citizens on a daily basis. The Mancos Fire District has served the citizens of Colorado for many years and has a reputation for its outstanding service. The district relies upon its volunteers to remain on call, prepared to fight fires or provide medical assistance on a moment's notice.

Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Mancos Fire District before this body of Congress and this nation. I want to commend all of the Fire District's fire fighters for their determination, courage, and resolve during last summer's efforts on Missionary Ridge. Without the help of the Mancos

Fire District and others, the added devastation to our community, environment, and quality of life would have been unimaginable. Their tireless commitment throughout last summer's fire season has served as an inspiration to us all and it is an honor to represent such an outstanding group of Americans in this Congress.

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER RESTORATION ACT

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take the first of many steps to improve the water situation in the San Joaquin Valley of California. Today, the San Joaquin Valley continues to face a water crisis in which our water supplies have become inadequate to meet expanding needs. Demands by domestic users, industry, and environmental needs continue to grow with no relief in sight. One of my top priorities in Congress is to address this water crisis and begin the long process of constructing much needed water storage for the Central Valley.

Today, I have introduced the San Joaquin River Restoration Act which will take the first step to construct a major storage facility on the Upper San Joaquin River. This legislation directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of increasing water storage capability on the Upper San Joaquin River. Furthermore, this legislation directs the Secretary to investigate the feasibility of increasing power generation, improving water supply reliability and quality, improving water management efficiency, and improving ecosystem function and flood control on the river in the area of Temperance Flat.

This new storage capability on the San Joaquin River will go a long way to meet the needs of the 15,000 farmers in Madera, Fresno, Tulare, and Kern counties. While my efforts to increase storage capacity on the San Joaquin River are vitally important to our water future, it must be part of a larger water storage plan. In the coming decades, the growth in our Valley will only worsen our water crisis. Now is the time to increase our water storage and efficiency for the future. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the San Joaquin River Restoration Act.

SOUTHERN BORDER AIR QUALITY PROTECTION ACT

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly represent Southern California communities, many of which are along the U.S.-Mexico border. These border communities, by and large, have a good working relationship with their neighbors in Mexico. Unfortunately, their proximity to the border causes them to suffer the consequences of Mexico's more lax environmental requirements, especially with respect to air quality. As we all know, air does not respect the international boundaries we put in place and, as a result, border communities are

often penalized for activities that are actually happening south of the border and beyond their control.

At least partially due to the heavy regulatory and environmental compliance burdens, electrical generation facilities are locating in Mexico. While some companies are building power plants that meet U.S. standards, for which they should be commended, other companies are choosing to operate dirty plants as opposed to incurring the additional cost of installing the best available emission control devices.

As a result, I am reintroducing the Southern Border Air Quality Protection Act. This bill takes an immediate and important step in acknowledging that we must consider air pollution a regional issue that does not respect international boundaries. My legislation will prohibit the export of natural gas to any electricity generation facility located in Mexico and within 50 miles of the U.S. that does not meet the air pollution emission rate requirements in the nearest U.S. air quality control region. In addition, the legislation includes a grandfathering clause so that any plants put in service before December 31, 2002 are exempted from this law.

This bill is necessary to protect our border communities from rapidly increasing emissions from unregulated, substandard power plants that leave U.S. communities vulnerable to Federal regulatory sanctions. If a plant isn't good enough to build and operate five miles inside the border in California, then it shouldn't be good enough to operate five miles across the border in Mexico.

I realize this is a first step and that more work must be done to create cross border air quality zones. I look forward to working with the appropriate U.S. agencies and the Mexican government to implement such binational agreements. In the meantime, this legislation is immediately necessary for the protection of our border communities and I urge all my colleagues to join me in this effort to ensure the clean air throughout the region.

TRIBUTE TO LOUIS MORSE

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Louis Morse, clerk of Cato Township, who earned the Master Municipal Clerk designation in 2002 through the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. Mr. Morse was recognized with this honor for his exemplary performance as a municipal clerk at the local, state, national and global levels.

Mr. Morse received the highest level of education achievable for municipal clerks through the Master Municipal Clerk Academy, to which he demonstrated that he actively pursued educational and professional activities and remained informed about current events in local government. In addition, he completed coursework and earned academy points by attending professional seminars and workshops, teaching advertisement writing in the profession and participating in professional meetings and conferences.

Making a personal commitment to life-long learning and mentoring, Mr. Morse continues

to serve his community through his extraordinary service. He truly makes the effort to go well beyond his regular duties.

I am honored today to recognize Mr. Morse as an outstanding citizen whose admirable qualities make him an outstanding role model to all who know him.

THE HOUSING BOND AND CREDIT MODERNIZATION AND FAIRNESS ACT

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague and friend, Representative AMO HOUGHTON, in reintroducing legislation to make three important changes to two of the most popular and efficient housing programs before Congress: the Mortgage Revenue Bond (MRB) program and the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program.

First, this bill repeals the Ten-Year Rule, a provision of the MRB program that restricts states from using homeowner mortgage payments to make new mortgages to qualified purchasers. This provision is obsolete and detrimental to the program. Every day, states lose millions of dollars in financing for first-time homebuyer mortgages due to this handcuffing provision. Our bill removes this unnecessarily restrictive provision to allow states to finance additional lower income mortgages.

Next, the bill replaces the present limit on the purchase price of the homes these mortgages can finance. The plain fact is there are no reliable comprehensive data that exist to determine average area home prices. The current price limits were issued in 1994 based on 1993 data and are well below current home price levels in most parts of the country. We propose a simpler formula limiting the purchase price to three and a half times the qualifying income under the program. This will work to preserve the goals of current law while providing a realistic limit on the program for almost all areas of the nation.

Finally, the bill facilitates lower income apartment production in rural areas by allowing states to use the greater of statewide median incomes or area median incomes as the basis for the income limits in the Housing Credit program. It is clear that the current rules do not provide sufficient incentives to build apartments in very low-income rural areas. Our bill addresses this by applying to the Housing Credit program the same methodology used in the MRB Program to determine qualifying income levels.

This bill is identical to the one 360 of our House colleagues cosponsored in the last Congress, which earned the support of the National Governors Association and every major national housing organization along the way.

Mr. Houghton and I believe these changes will ensure a strong, effective housing program that will meet the needs of our constituents now and well into the future. We ask for your support to ensure that these important provisions are enacted as part of tax legislation this year.

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY MAZZOCHI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Anthony Mazzochi, a champion of the labor movement. Through his compassion, dedication, and commitment he improved the lives of the working men and women of the Nation. His hope brought those who toil in the factories and fields across the country together and gave them a voice and the empowering recognition that they cannot go unnoticed in the social, economic, or political arenas.

Anthony Mazzochi began his life in Brooklyn, New York. The struggles of the working class were brought to his attention at a young age when his father, a unionized garment worker, lost the family home due to medical bills for his wife who died of cancer when Anthony Mazzochi was 6 years old. Anthony Mazzochi served in World War II as an Army combat veteran, fought in the Battle of the Bulge, and was one of the first soldiers to reach the Nazi death camps. Upon returning to the U.S. he worked as a steelworker, an autoworker and in construction.

In the 1950s Anthony Mazzochi began his work in the labor movement with the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union and fought for one of the first dental insurance contract for workers. He later became the local OCAW president. Over the years he took on more roles within the union and eventually became the union's health and safety director from 1979 to 1981 and the secretary-treasurer from 1988 until he retired in 1991.

Anthony Mazzochi was instrumental in the fight to create the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) and pass the National Gas Pipeline Safety Act, among other legislation. He also led the effort to highlight the plight of Karen Silkwood, a worker who blew the whistle on health and safety problems at a Kerr-McGee nuclear facility.

He was innovative in extending the labor cause to art, education and activism. To educate union members he established Alice Hamilton College. Anthony Mazzochi was the publisher of "New Solutions" an environmental and occupational health policy publication. He helped commission a play about Karen Silkwood performed at the Attic Theatre in Detroit in 1993. He also created an internship program that brought awareness to medical and public health students about workplace conditions.

Anthony Mazzochi established the Labor Party Advocates in 1991 in an effort to build support for a national labor party. In 1996, with 1,400 union leaders, he organized a meeting in Cleveland to establish the Labor Party. He never lost hope that support for a national movement to improve conditions of workers was present in the country.

Anthony Mazzochi received the Presidential Citation for outstanding contributions to public health from the American Public Health Association in 1983; the Alice Hamilton Award from that organization in 1987; and was cited by Ms. Magazine in 1982 as one of the "40 Male Heroes of the Decade" for his work organizing the effort that exposed the forced sterilization of women workers at American Cyanamid.